MARVEL®
© William Heinemann Ltd 1990
4th Aug. 1990
No 73 45p

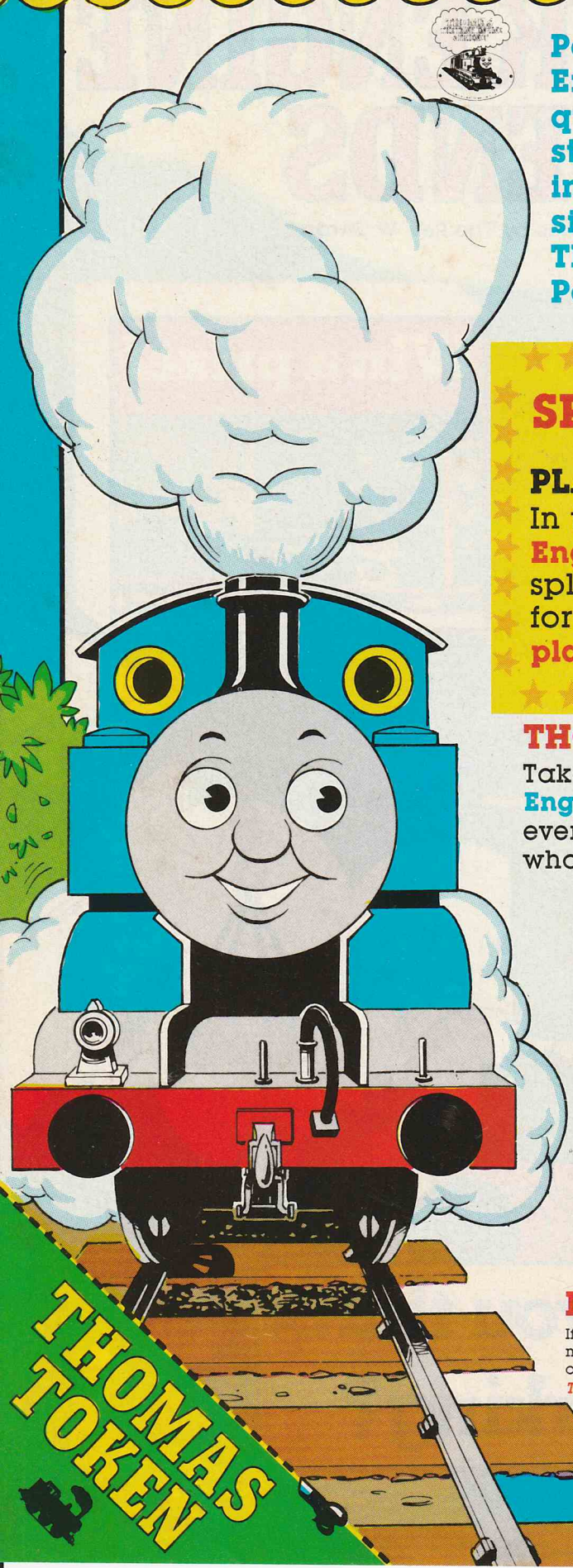
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

ISSN 0954-9390

Where do you think Duck is working?

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! One day, as James the Red Engine was busy pulling trucks to the quarry, he noticed something very strange on his journey. He looked up into the signalbox, but couldn't see any signalmen . . . What could be wrong? The story begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

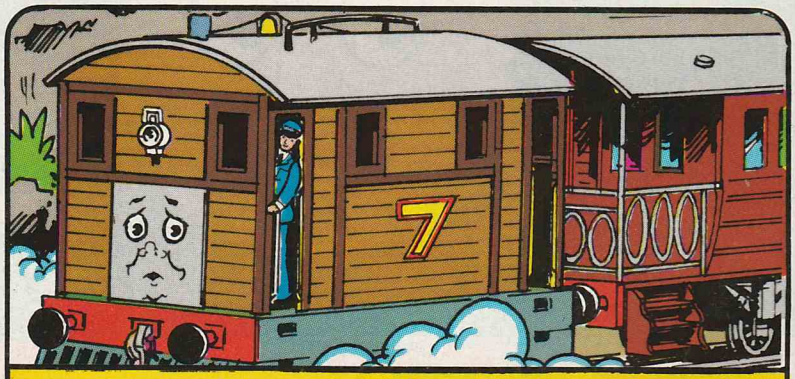
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

PLASTICINE GIFT FOR YOU!

In the next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** there will be five splendid strips of colourful **plasticine,** just for you! Don't miss **your extra special plasticine gift** – order your copy now!

THOMAS FOR A YEAR!

Take out a subscription for **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine and have every issue delivered straight to your home for a whole year! Details are on page 16!



In our next issue: Toby the Tram Engine becomes a hero!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

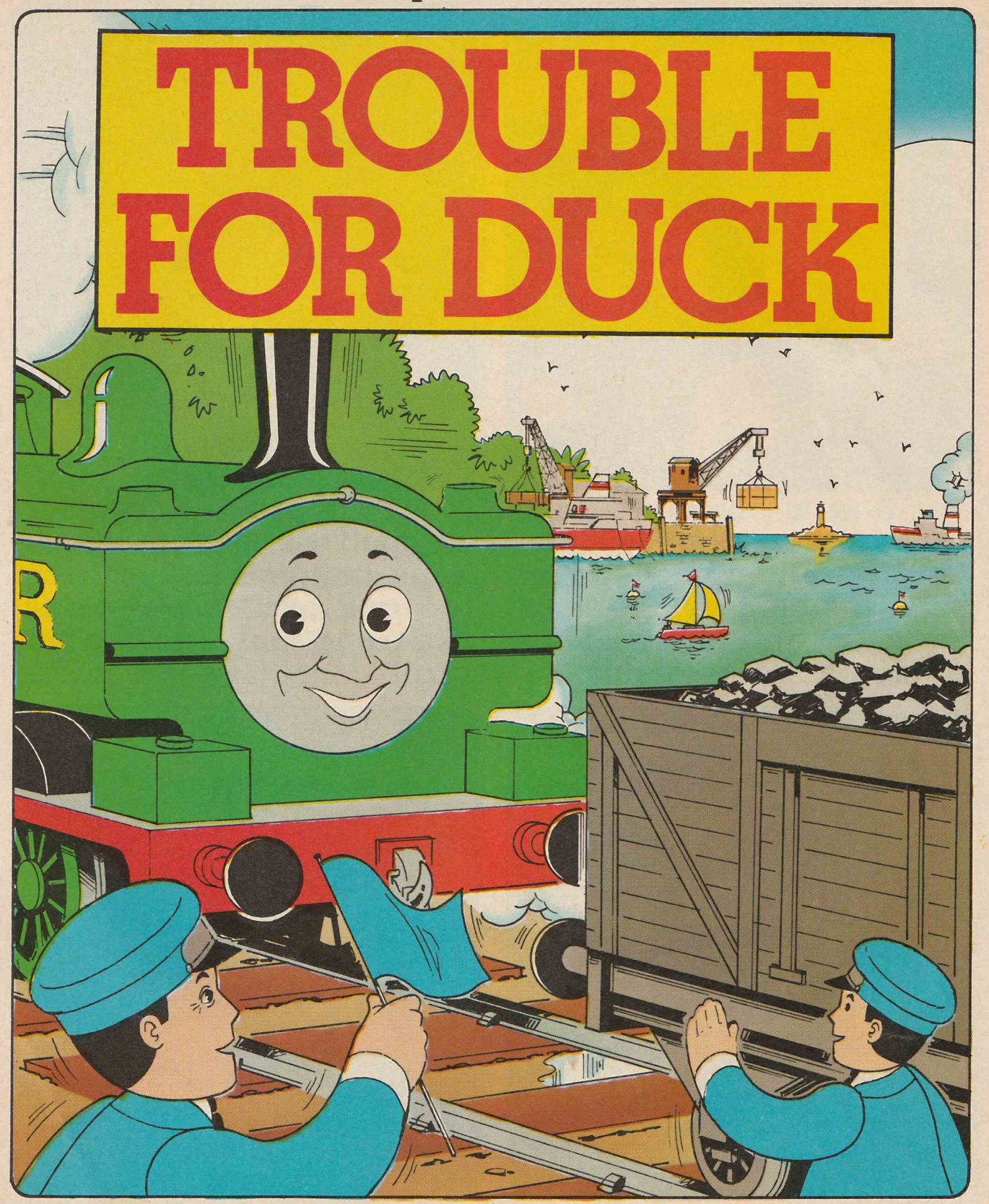
THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS LTD, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2. Copyright © William Heinemann Ltd 1990. All publishing rights William Heinemann Ltd. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann to Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd exclusively worldwide. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in England. Distributed by Comag.

ABC

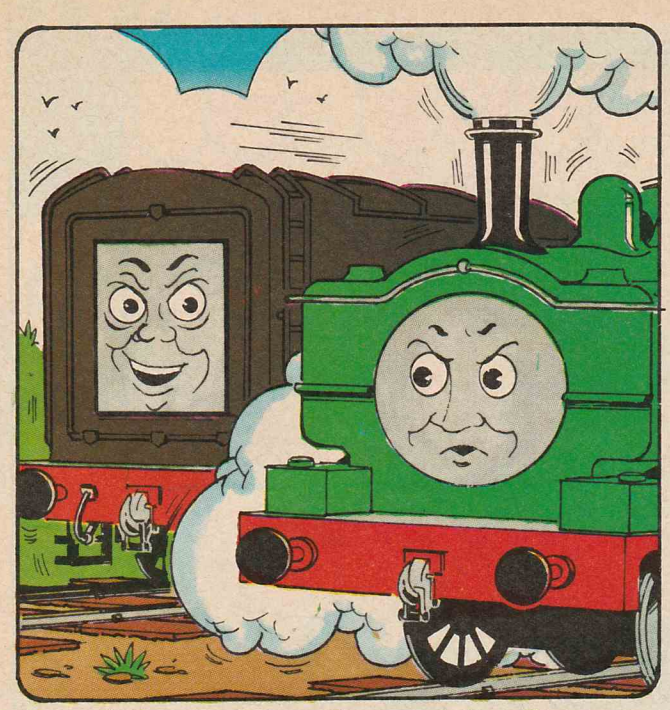
A listen and look story!

TROUBLE FOR DUCK

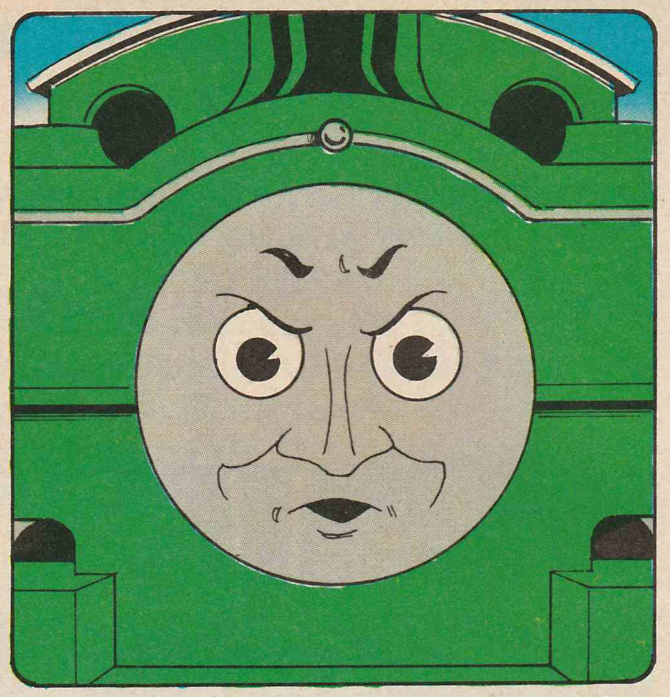


1. Duck loves to work by the sea. He always enjoys working at the harbour. He would shunt trucks backwards and forwards to the ships at the quayside.

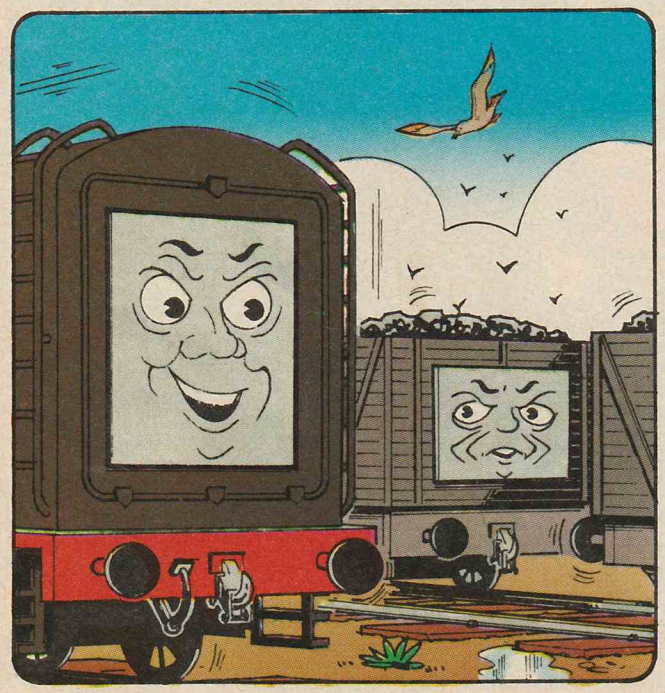
2. Only one thing spoilt Duck's fun. Diesel sometimes worked at the harbour too. He was rude to Duck, and was always scheming and trying to cause trouble.



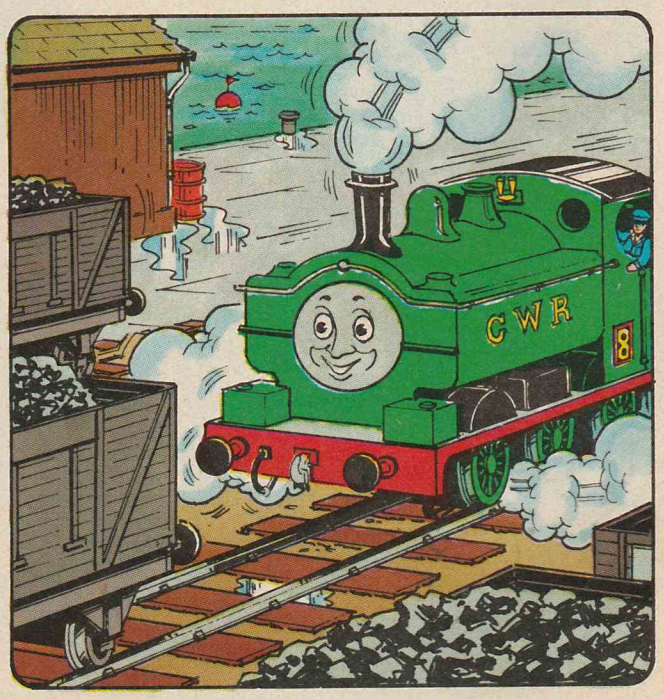
3. "Quack! Quack! Come along, Duck! Don't waddle! You'll overturn the trucks!" said Diesel, teasing Duck. Duck thought that Diesel was a very rude engine indeed!



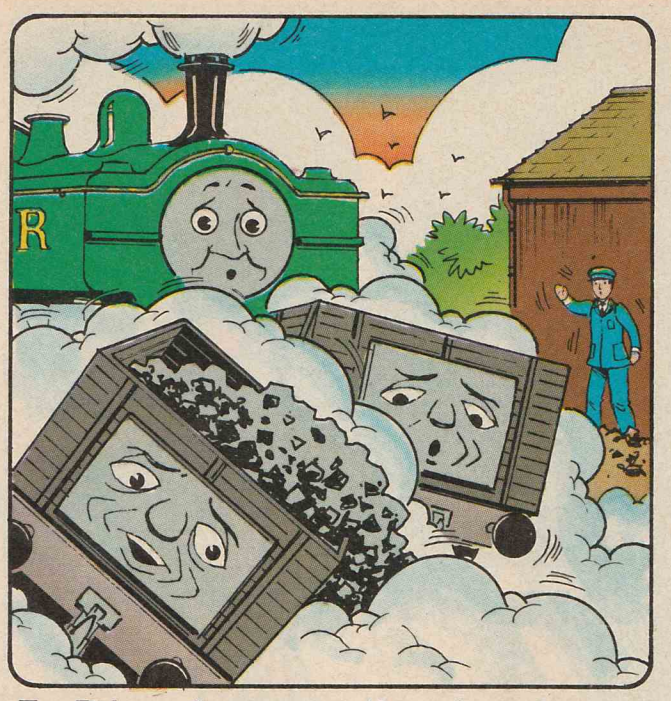
4. "You're just a nasty, oily engine!" said Duck crossly. "I hope that you fall into the sea and rust!" Diesel didn't like being spoken to like this at all.



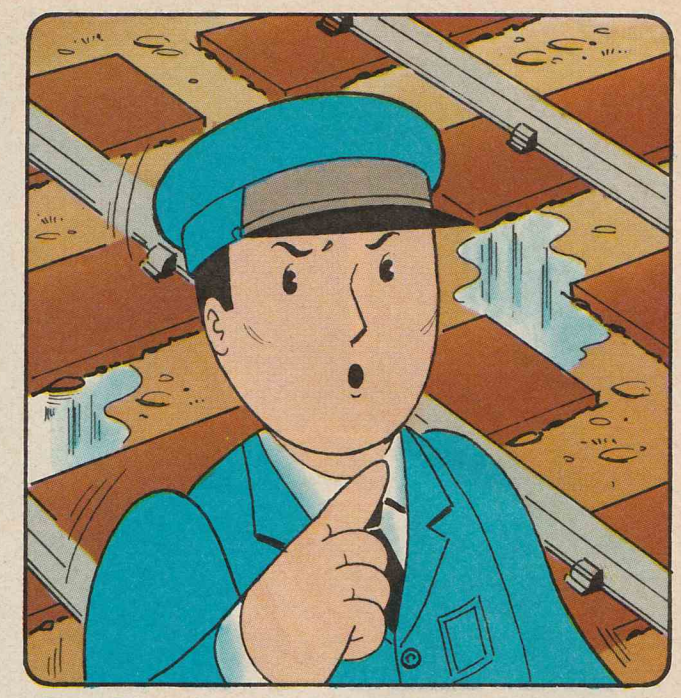
5. Diesel went off to find some trucks. He told the trucks that Duck was going to treat them badly! "Duck is going to bang you, when he shunts you," said Diesel.



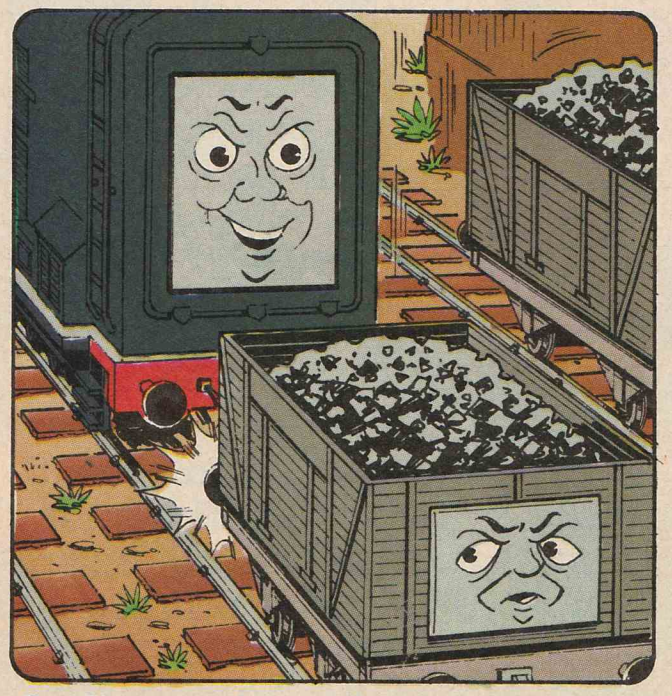
6. "Just let him try!" said the trucks. "We'll bump him first!" They asked Diesel to help them. When Duck came to shunt the trucks, Diesel was waiting behind them.



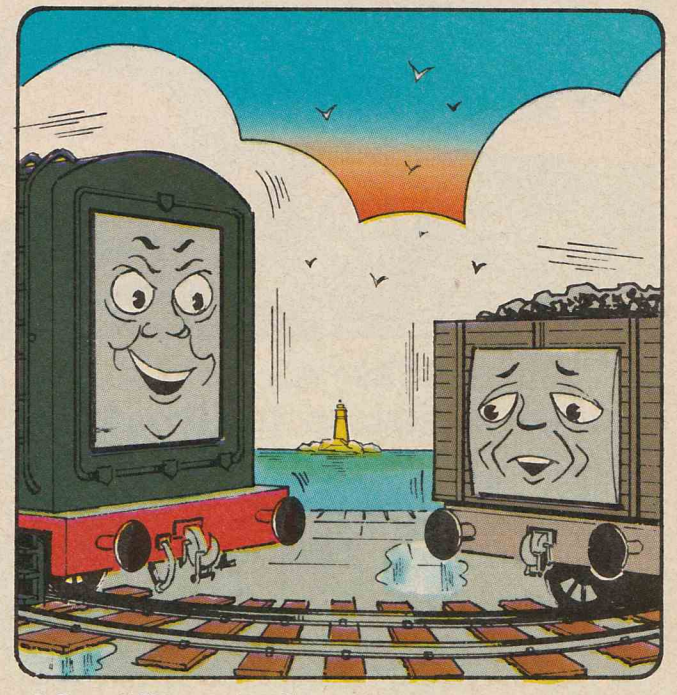
7. Diesel gave the trucks a big push. **Craassh!** They ran into Duck's buffers very hard, and overturned. The Harbour-master thought Duck had caused the accident.



8. "If you can't shunt trucks properly, I shall send you back to the Main Station!" he said crossly. Poor Duck was very upset. Diesel laughed and laughed.



9. "I'm such a clever engine!" Diesel said in his oily voice. He was now very happy. When Diesel went back to work, he pushed and banged the trucks roughly.



10. "Stop! Stop!" cried the trucks, who were filled with coal. "I can do what I like!" boasted Diesel. "I even tricked you into helping me get Duck into trouble!"

11. The trucks felt very sorry about causing trouble for Duck. They decided to teach Diesel a lesson. They waited until the Harbourmaster was approaching. When Diesel pushed them they banged into each other very hard. The trucks shook violently from side to side. Suddenly, they came right off their rails!

12. The trucks toppled over, spilling coal all over the yard. "That was your fault, Diesel!" said the Harbourmaster, crossly. "I shall report you to the Fat Controller!" Diesel was sent back to his shed where he had to stay until he learned to behave himself. Meanwhile, Duck was pleased to be able to work in peace again!

THE END

In our next issue: Too hot!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Harbutt's Plasticine®

FOR YOU!

With...

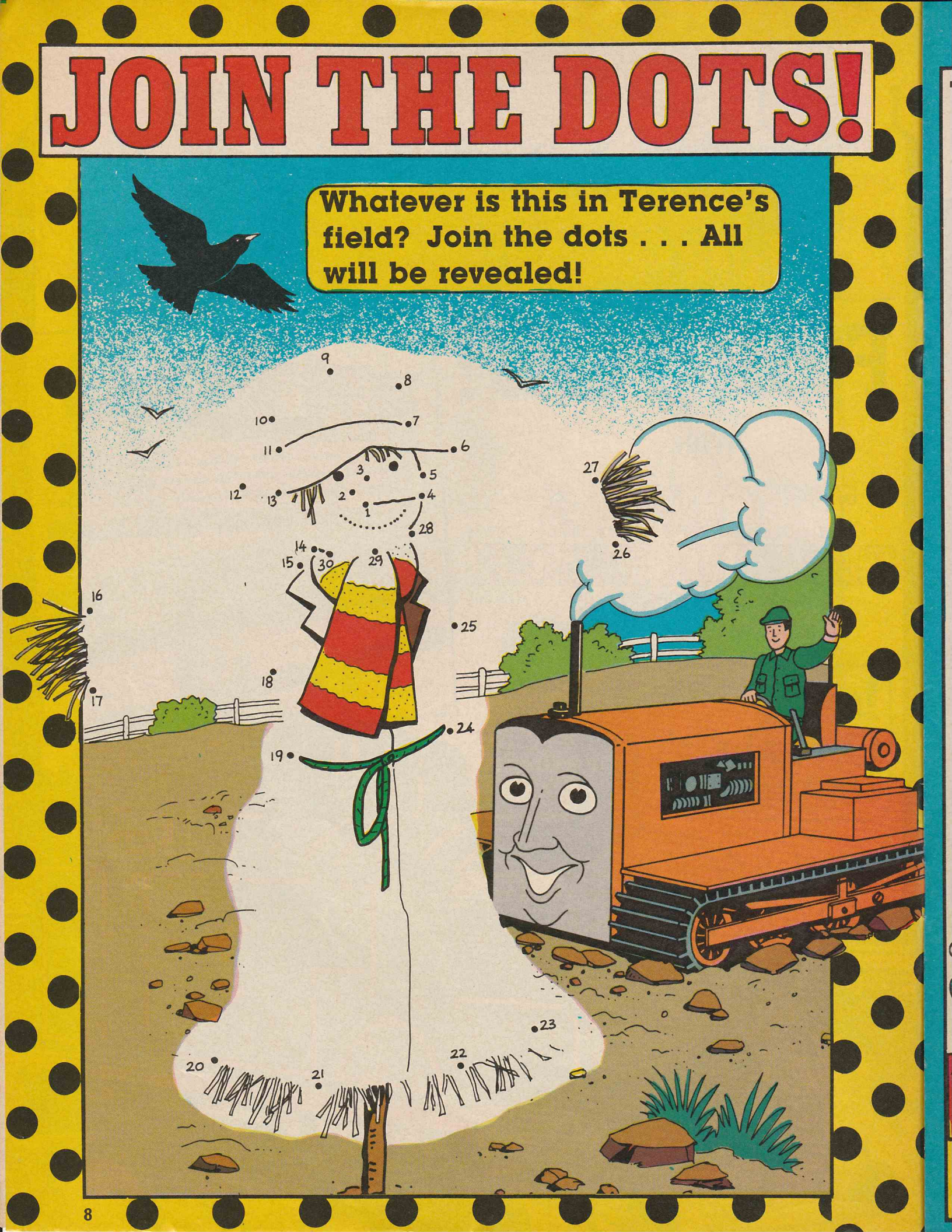
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Issue 74
On sale...
6th Aug. 1990

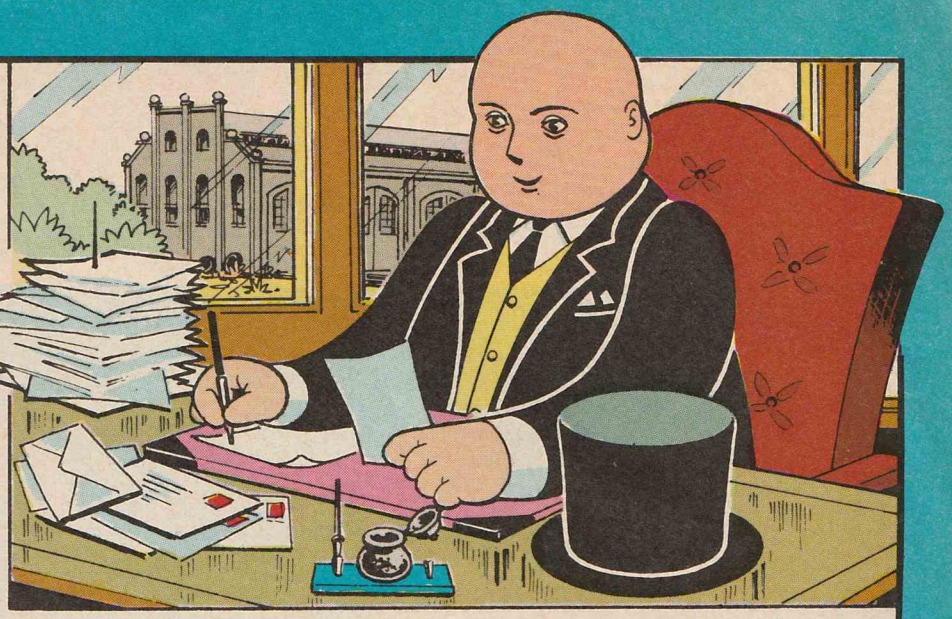
© Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. 1990

JOIN THE DOTS!

Whatever is this in Terence's field? Join the dots . . . All will be revealed!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



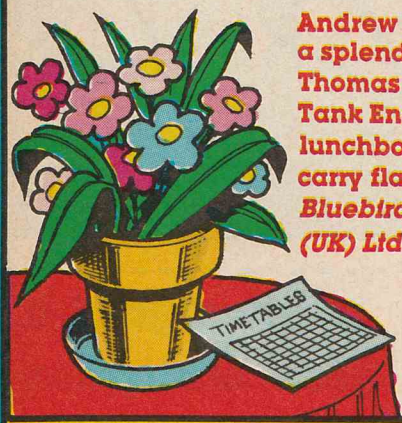
Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have just come back from holiday in Spain, with my mummy and daddy. On the way back we travelled by train at night-time. We slept in a small room in the coach where the seats could be made into beds!

Love from **Andrew,** aged 5.

Gracious me! *What a splendid place to go for your holidays . . . I do hope that you enjoyed yourself! The coach that you slept in is called a 'sleeper'. It is specially designed to allow its passengers to sleep comfortably on night journeys!*



Andrew wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine lunchbox and carry flask from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

SPLENDID JOURNEY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I'm writing to tell you that the other day I went on a steam train! I pretended that it was Thomas. The driver told me I could go into his cab and watch how the engine was controlled. We went through lots of dark tunnels and I really enjoyed myself!

Love from **Ryan,** aged 4.

Well, well . . . *what a splendid time you must have had! There is nothing more exciting than standing in the cab of a splendid steam engine while it powers its way along the line!*

BIRTHDAY BOY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have just had my birthday. I am 3 years old! For my birthday I was given lots of tank engines and a pair of Thomas trainers, too! Lots of love from **Thomas,** aged 3.

Upon my soul! *I do not recall ever seeing a pair of Thomas trainers . . . however, I am sure that they must look very splendid indeed! Happy belated birthday, Thomas!*

BIRTHDAYS!

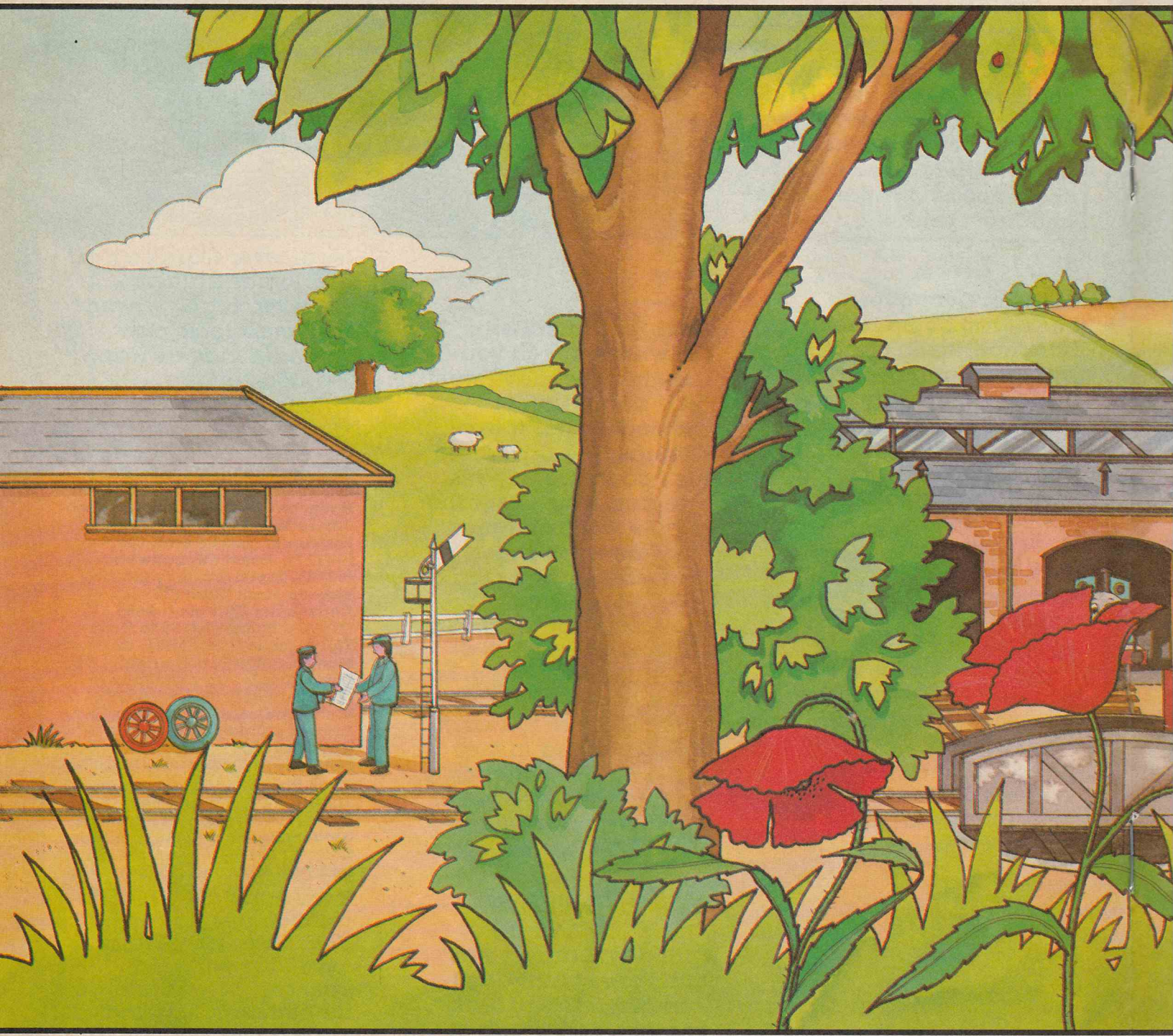
Graham Wraith, Matthew Page, Lee Tandy (32872), Paul Clifford Hodgson (29053), Sammie Tang, James Melham (27737), Ashley Parmenter (2631), Scott Clarkson (28377), James Groundwater (0273), James Malteby (26666), Victoria Mark Clark (32660), Christopher Killman (0265), Michael Pomery (11596), Tony Tighe, Samantha Ridley, Chris Moodie (32994), John Paul Doyle, Daniel Gordon Watson (28810), David Mann (15798), Matthew York (33210), Ryan Smouth (32586), Matthew Coombes (30114), Joe Peter Donnelly (24042), Harry King, Chris Hanson (25834), Timothy Tucker, Rebecca Lee, Benjamin Lewis (19495), Paul Adam Atkins, Gregory Benham (24583), Adrian Cooper (28434), Steven Greeno and Paul Maitland (13369).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt.
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Through th



Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

Where is he going?

Can you see any other engines?

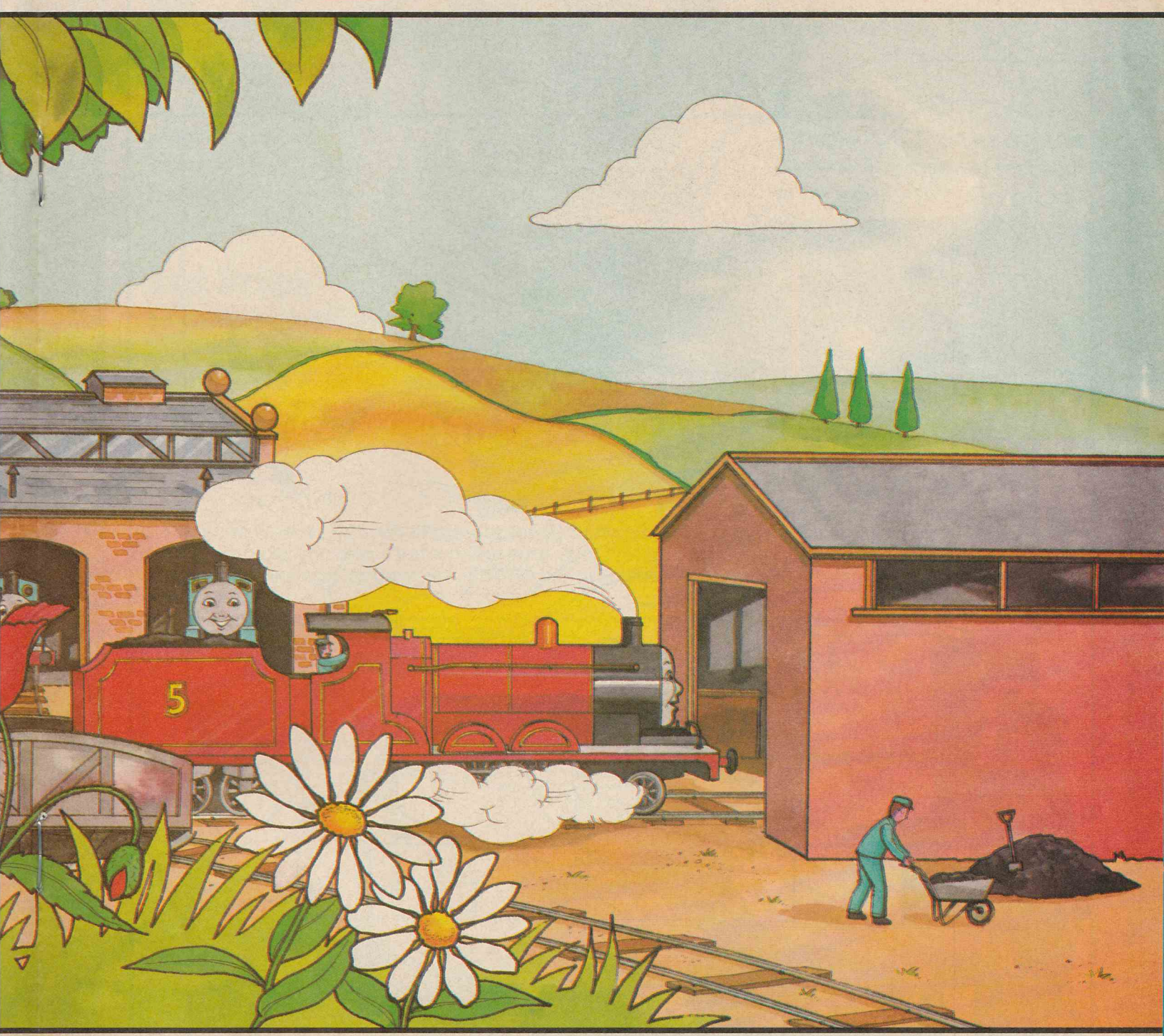
Is the signal up or

How many sheep c

What has the guar

Point to a tiny lady

the yard!



p or down?

eep can you see?

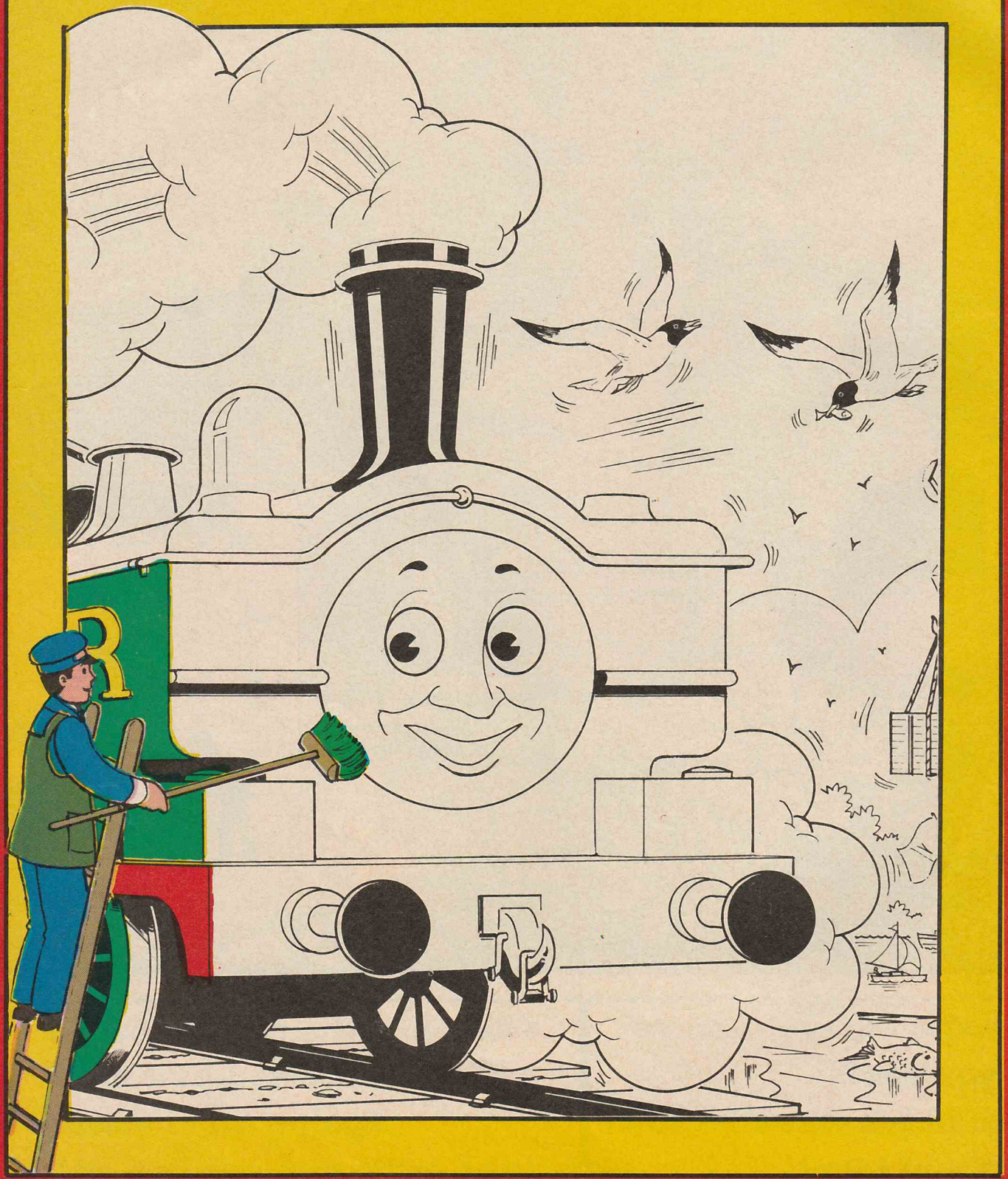
guard got in his wheelbarrow?

ladybird!

Next issue: The Fat Controller has a brand new, four part counting mural activity, just for you! Don't miss the important first part!

COLOURING TIME!

'Here I am,' Duck says with a grin,
'I'm ready for you to colour me in!'



COMPETITION

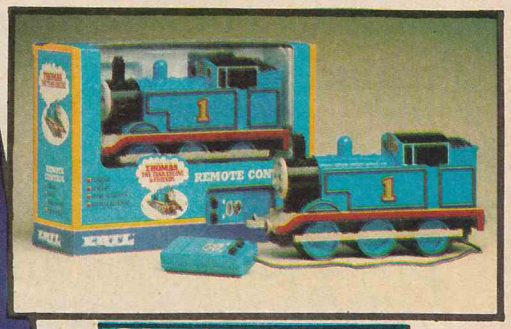
ERTL

1st Prize

24 lucky winners will receive a smart Thomas, James and Henry 3-piece set!

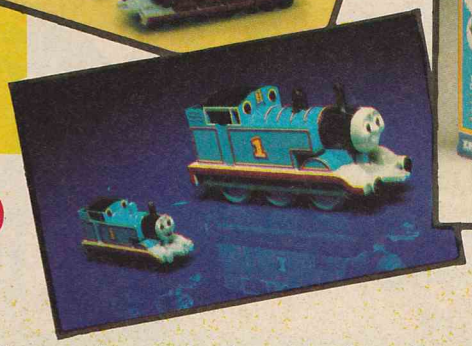
2nd Prize

24 splendid Thomas Remote Control Engines are waiting to be won!



3rd Prize

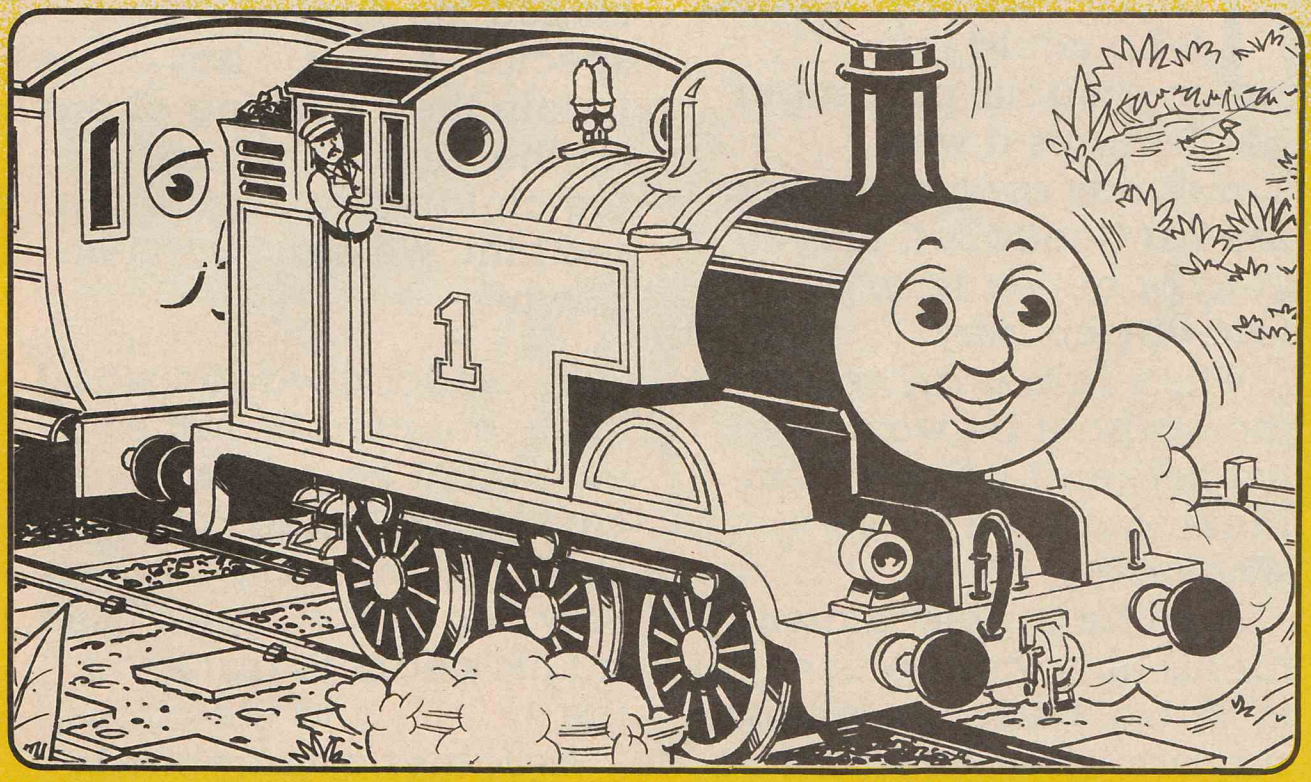
48 runners-up will receive a die-cast Thomas the Tank Engine!



HOW TO ENTER

Closing date: 17th August 1990

All you have to do to win one of these splendid prizes is colour the picture on this page as brightly and carefully as you can. Then cut out your completed entry along the dotted line and send it to: *Thomas's Colouring Competition, The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2*



Name ..... Age ..... Address .....

.....

Rules: No employee of Marvel Comics Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd or Ertl (UK) Ltd may enter this competition. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

A read aloud story!

James and the Elephant!

James was feeling very cross. One of the coal trucks that he had been pulling in the yard had de-railed, covering him with dirty coal dust.

"I need a good clean!" grumbled James, but his driver just shook his head.

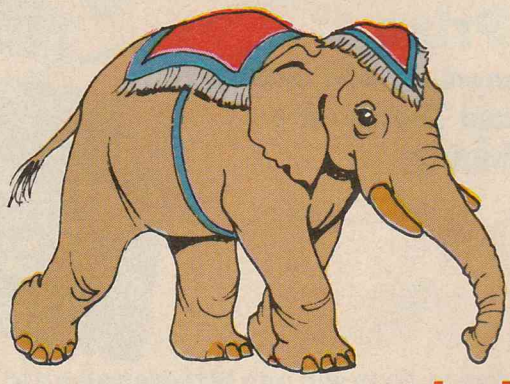
"Not now, James. We have an important passenger to pick up down at the harbour," he said.

James was very puzzled. Who could this mysterious passenger be? Perhaps it was somebody special visiting the Fat Controller, maybe a king or queen from a faraway country.

When James arrived at the harbour he was very excited and let off steam, making a loud noise. **Wheeesh!**

Then he waited patiently for his important passenger to arrive. Imagine James's surprise when he saw a huge elephant being led towards him.

"I can't pull an elephant!" exclaimed James. "My poor wheels will never carry that weight."



elephant

"Of course they will!" smiled his driver. "This special elephant has come to join the travelling circus on the Island of Sodor. All the children are waiting to see him. We can't let them down!"

A special wagon was coupled to James and he pulled away, very slowly, using all of his strength. The elephant was very heavy but James used all his steam to transport the elephant to the circus.

As James approached the big circus tent the excited children cheered

loudly. "Hooray! Here comes James and the elephant!"

James saw the big crowd gathered outside the tent and felt very proud, but then he remembered how dirty he was! "Everyone will laugh at me," he grumbled.

Luckily the children were far more interested in the elephant than in James and no-one seemed to notice the coal dust on his coat. The elephant was released from his cage and given a long drink of water from a bucket. Instead of swallowing the water, the elephant filled his trunk and sprayed the water all over James! **Splaaaaaash!**

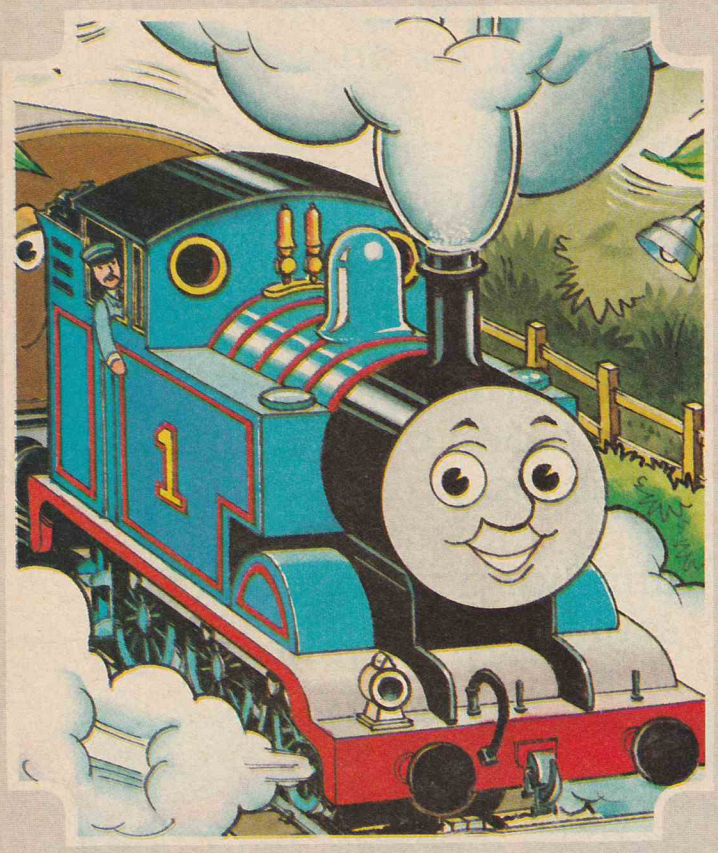
"Ha, ha! The elephant has washed you clean!" laughed his driver.

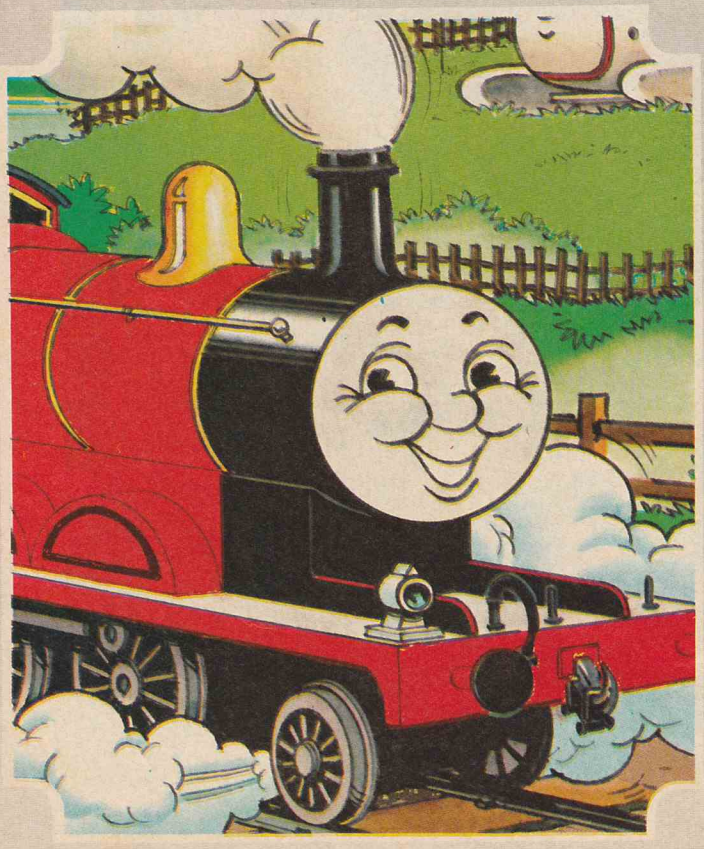
The elephant turned slowly and squirted a final jet of water over the children who laughed and jeered.

James laughed too. He was proud of his clean, shiny red paint. The elephant was the most unusual passenger **he** had ever carried.

THE END

Subscribe...





. . .to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine. . .

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

It costs just £15.00 for your child to be sent every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine for a whole year! (Overseas subscribers £30.00.) Your child will also receive a splendid membership card plus personal number, enabling him/her to enter special offers and competitions which are frequently open to Thomas Club members *only!*

ORDER FORM **SO1**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... **Postcode** .....

Please supply me with **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for a year. I will allow 28 days for delivery.

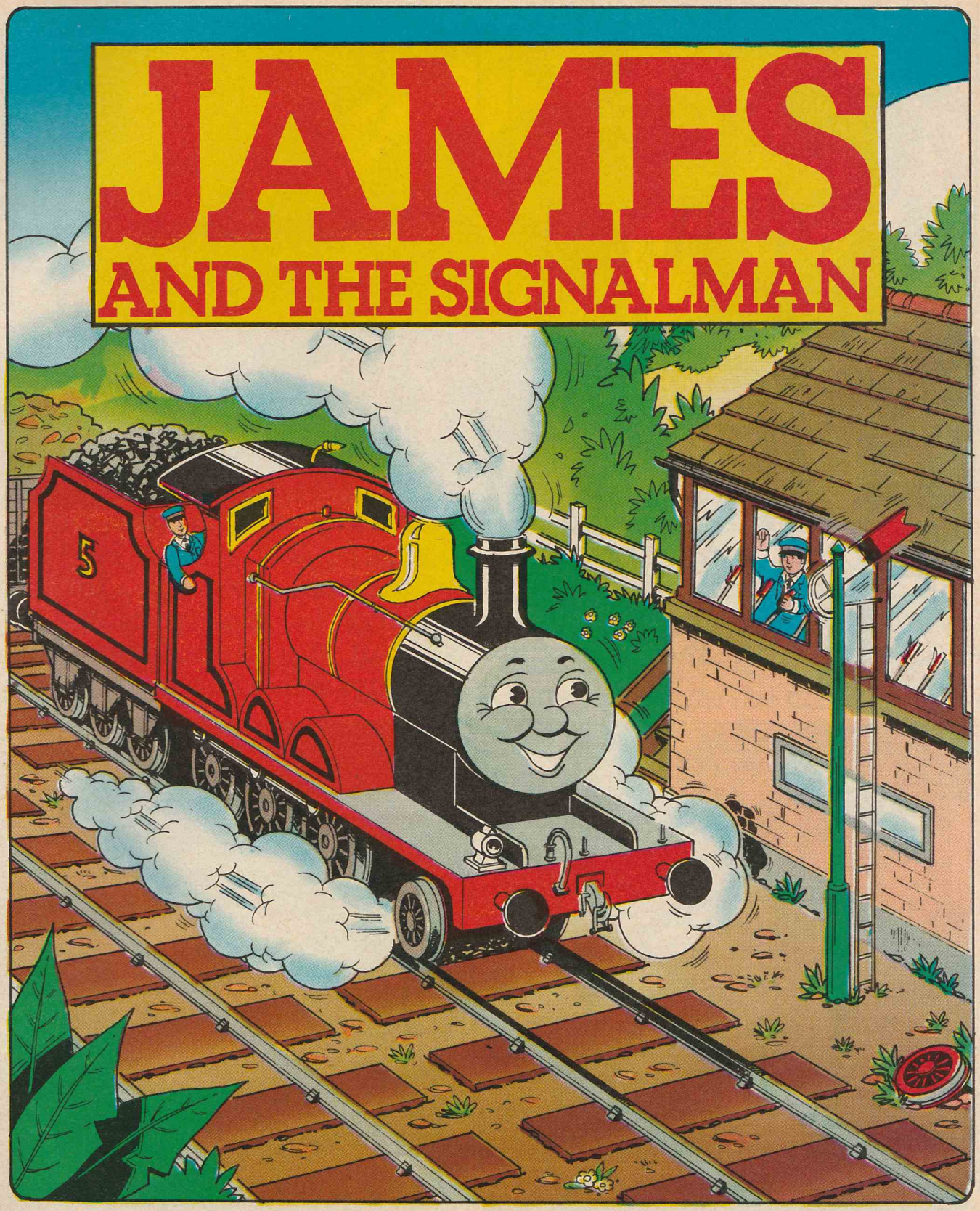
☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £15.00 (UK) or £30.00 (overseas) payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

☐ Please charge £15.00 (UK) or £30.00 (overseas) to my Visa/MasterCard. My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Signature ..... Expiry date .....

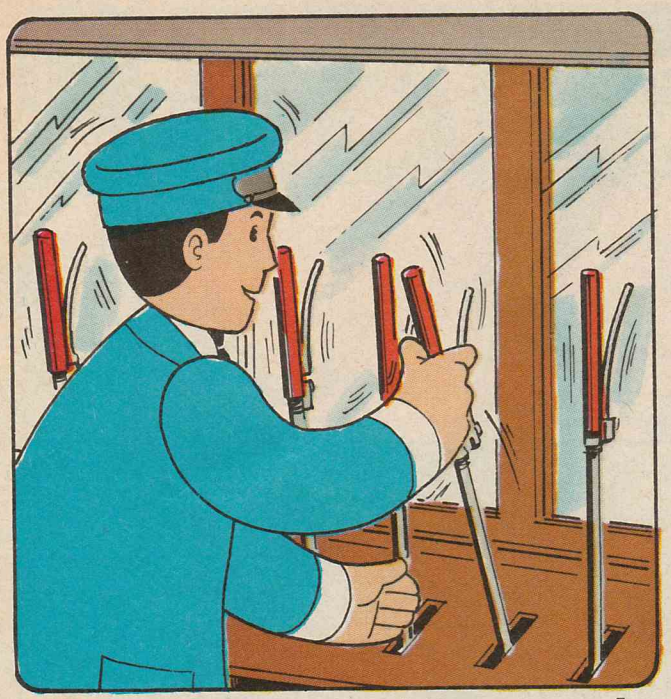
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

A listen and look story!

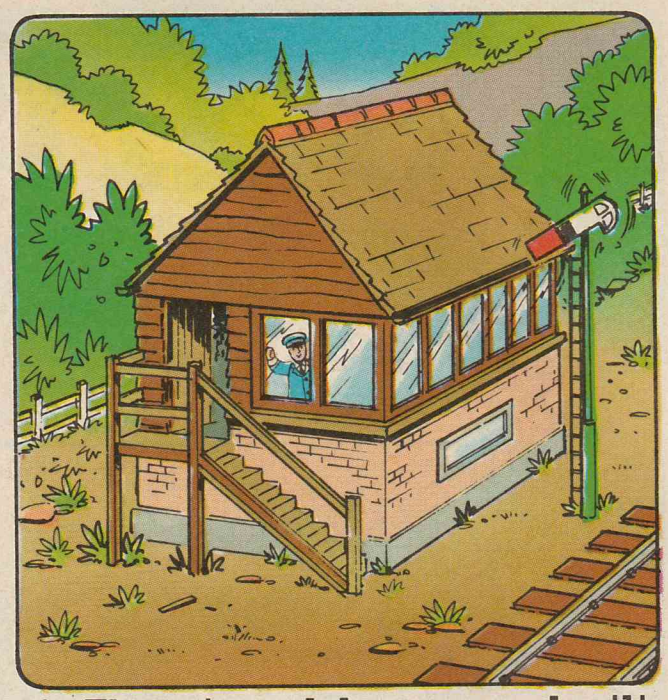


1. James was pulling trucks to the harbour on the branch line. He slowed down and stopped at the red signals to allow Gordon to go through with the Express.

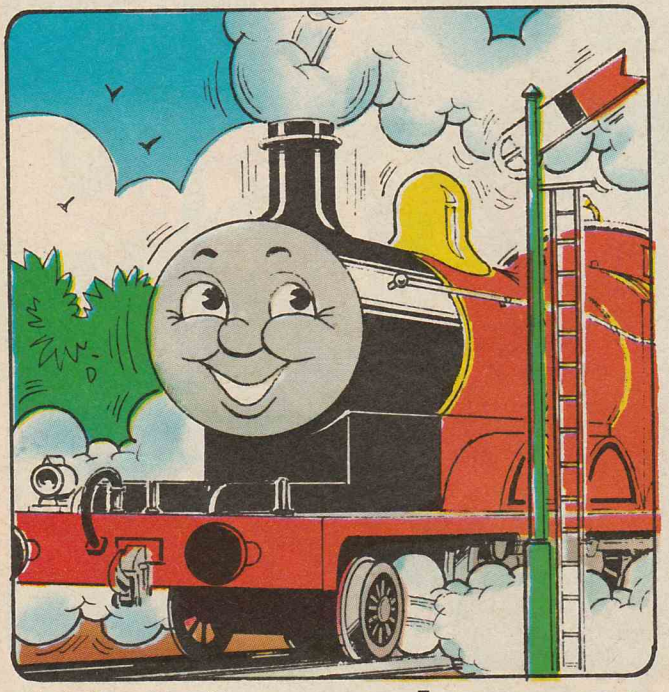
2. The signalman in the signal box waved to James. "Hello, James!" he called. James whistled back. He knew all the signalmen who worked for the railway.



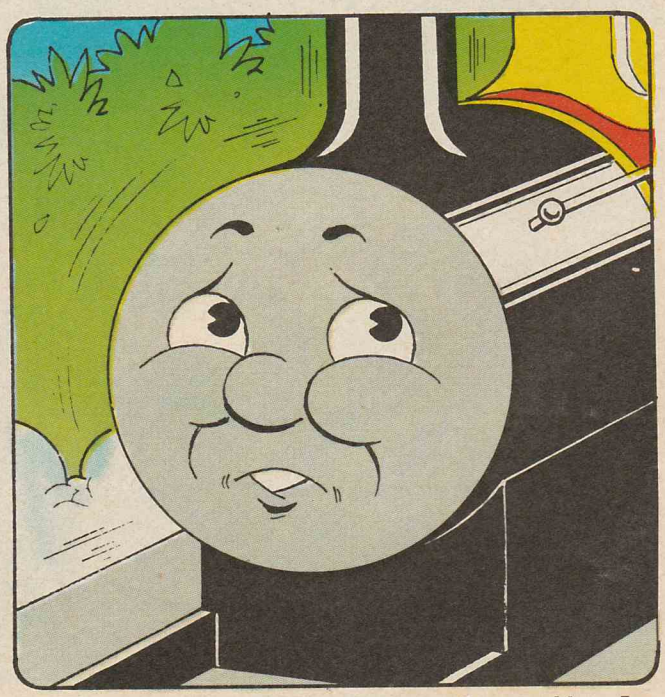
3. James knew that the signalmen had a very important job. They controlled the points to make certain the trains ran on the correct rails!



4. The signal box was built high up. This was to let the signalmen see the trains coming in plenty of time. Without the signalmen the railways would be in chaos.

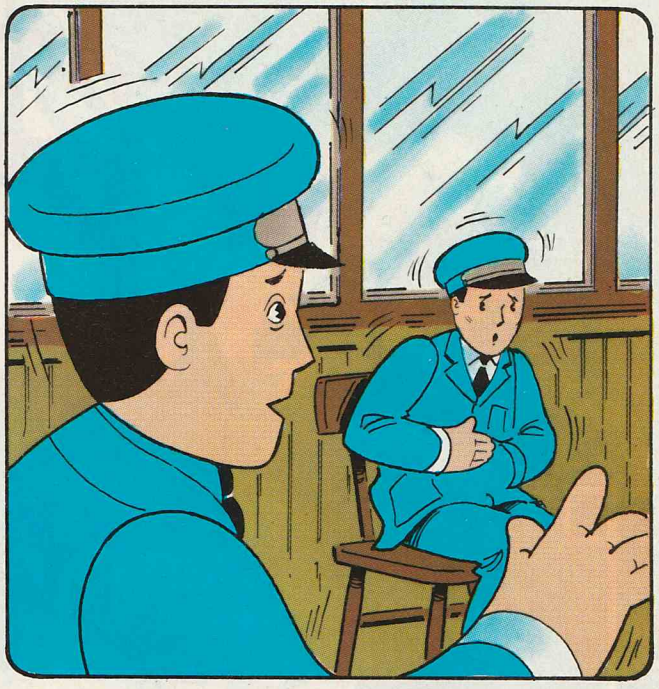


5. That afternoon, James was returning to the Main Station from the harbour. He was stopped by the same signals. "Henry must be coming through," he thought.

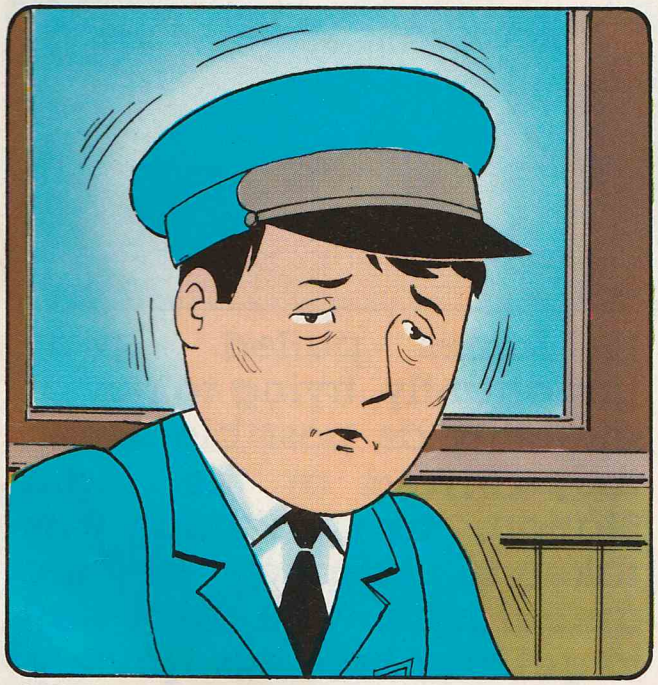


6. James waited, and waited, but no train came through. He couldn't see any signalmen in the signal box either. "Something must be wrong," he thought.

7. His driver agreed. "I'll take a look, James," he said. Stepping down from the cab, the driver went over to the signal box. He climbed up the steps to the front door.

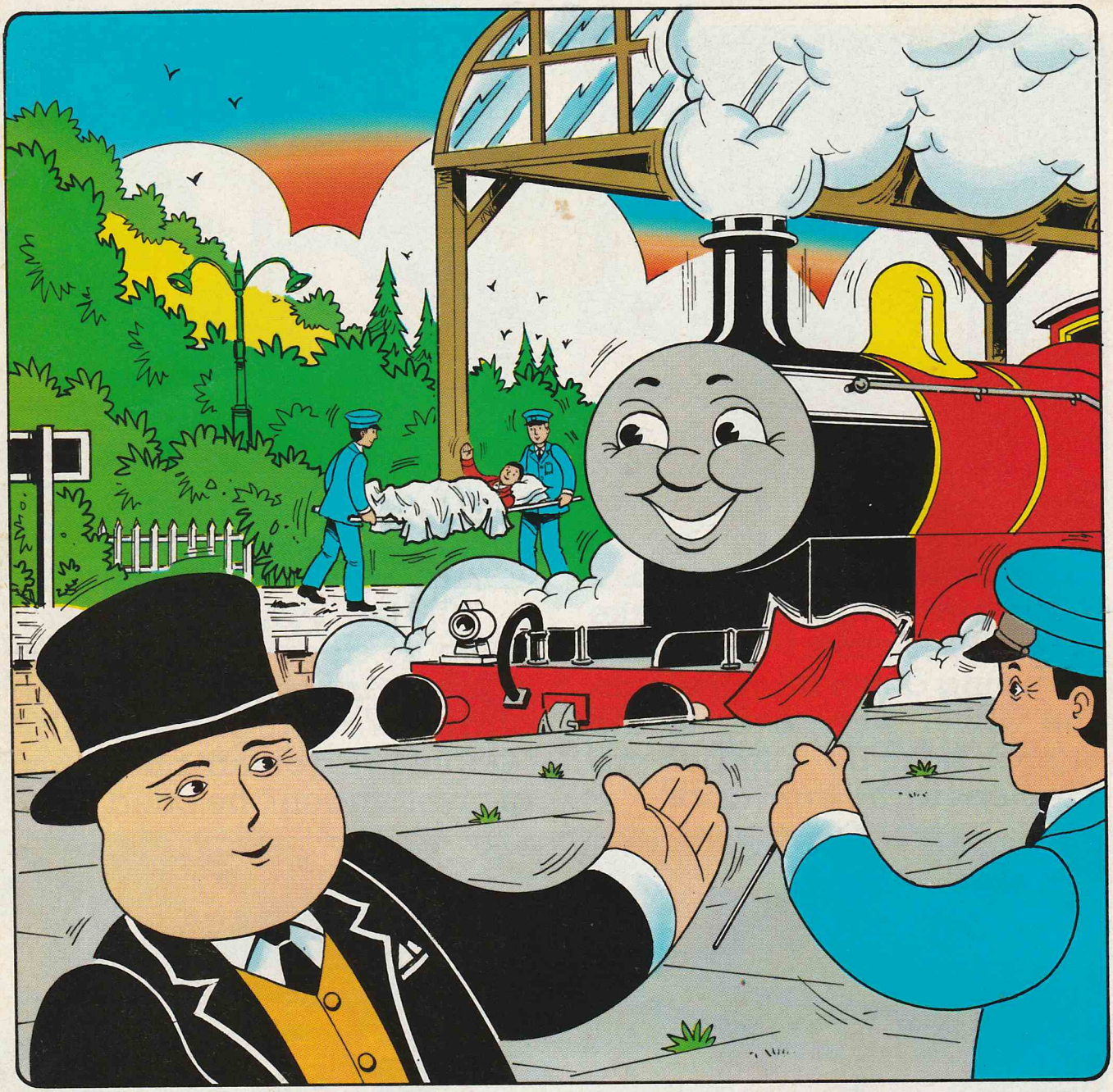


8. What a surprise he had when he stepped inside. The signalman was sitting on a chair, looking very ill! "Oooh! I've got terrible pains in my stomach!" he cried.



9. The signalman explained that the pains had started very suddenly. "I couldn't reach the telephone. And I'd already sent my partner, Bert, to fetch some tea," he said.

10. The signalman thought that he could make it down to James. By the time the second signalman returned, James's driver had telephoned the Main Station.



11. James's driver asked for an ambulance to be ready when he got there. James's driver and Bert helped the signalman up into James's cab. Once he was in the cab, the signalman decided to sit down to feel more comfortable. Bert went back to the signal box. He reset the signals to green. The driver let off James's brakes.

12. James pulled away importantly, trying to run as smoothly as possible. When they arrived at the Main Station, the signalman was taken to hospital in the ambulance. "You did well to get him here so quickly. Well done, James! You are a Really Useful Engine!" said the Fat Controller.

THE END

In our next issue: Toby the brave!